a written report. Globally the use of embryonic Stem Cell for research and therapy is restrictive and has to be approved and monitored by appropriate committee constituted for it. On the use of embryonic stem cell therapy through cloning, the Costa Rica group forbids the use for any type of cloning whereas the Belgium group (which includes India) allows therapeutic cloning. Reproductive cloning is however banned by all countries.

Human Organs Bank

2050. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Human Organs Bank for the purpose transplantation of human organs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to encourage organ donation;

(d) whether any technology has been imported for the purpose and necessary training given to the doctors in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) a national facility & nodal center for the country is already operational at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. A network of 15 hospitals (Government, Public and Charitable) with ORBO has been formed for smooth functioning and coordination for process of Organ Donation and Transplantation in Delhi.

(c) A Review Committee was set up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules 1995 and the Committee has recommended various steps to encourage organ donation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.